The Cleveland Museum of Art

Press Release

For Immediate Release
March 10, 1998

Contact: Ginger Burnett
(216) 421-7340, ext. 265

The Cleveland Museum of Art Presents
Circle of Masks

(**Cleveland, OH**) In the spirit of the New Orleans Mardi Gras and the world-wide celebration of Carnival, the Cleveland Museum of Art celebrates its **Fourth Annual Circle of Masks**, Sunday, April 26, 1998 from 1 to 4 p.m. This *free* family event will feature Latin American mask-making and companion dance performances, as the museum honors its international artists exchange with Mexico, Trinidad and Puerto Rico.

At this year's Circle of Masks, local artists from Latin America and the Caribbean will host three mask-making stations. Bruno Casiano, artist with the Julia de Burgos Arts and Cultural Center, will teach visitors how to make brightly colored horned masks from Puerto Rico known as "*vejigantes.*" Tremont artist Angelica Pozo, who is a native of Puerto Rico, will demonstrate how to make authentic Mexican-style masks. In conjunction with **Parade the Circle Celebration**, Hiram Parade artist Wendy Mahon-Hils, a native of Trinidad, will guide mask-makers through the construction of a *Jumble Moves* mask, inspired by this year's Parade theme.

"The Circle of Masks is a unique event," said Robin VanLear, CMA's community arts coordinator and Parade artistic director. "It encourages individual expression, creativity, and is our official kick-off for all the artistic preparations that go into the Parade the Circle Celebration, a *free* community arts event on June 13." The 1998 celebration will feature ensembles by visiting artists from Mexico, Trinidad, Puerto Rico, Canada, Kenya and Amsterdam.

The Circle of Masks festivities will include three dance ensembles

11150 EAST BOULEVARD, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44106-1797
TEL 216-421-7340 TDD 216-421-0018 FAX 216-421-0411

performing an eclectic mix of Latin American and contemporary styles in the museum's indoor Garden Court. **Ritmo y Raza**, the dance company of Julia de Burgos Arts and Cultural Center, will perform a series of Puerto Rican "dance folkloricos" at 1:30 and 2:30 p.m.

Well-known dance duo, **Tom and Susana Evert** will give two performances of *Mascarada* at 2 and 3 p.m. This dance was specially created for the Circle of Masks celebration and is a blend of traditional and ballroom dances of Mexico.

The day's celebration will conclude with a grand finale dance performance by **SAFMOD** (SubAtomic Frequency Modulation OverDose) at 3:30 p.m. The innovative dance ensemble will perform its interpretation of *Jumble Moves.* Drummer and composer Neil Chastain will lead masked dancers through a procession with rhythms derived from Korean and Japanese music. "As each performer removes his or her mask to dance their vision of their own 'true' color, audience members can join the ensemble and share their own *Jumble Moves*," said VanLear.

* * *

Circle of Masks and the **Parade the Circle Celebration** are sponsored by the Metropolitan Savings Bank with generous support from The George Gund Foundation and the Ohio Arts Council.

Parade the Circle Celebration is a *free* community arts event presented by the Cleveland Museum of Art and University Circle Incorporated.

# # #